

OBSERVATIONS ON THE NEW CYDER TAX, &c. BY J. MASSIE.

NUMBER XIX.

IT will now be necessary to lay before the Landholders of England, some Account of the Consequences which have resulted to the Manufactures, Fisheries and Trade of Scotland, from the Terms of Union, mentioned in my Paper No. 12, and explained in No. 13, 14 & 15; also, from the various un stipulated Civil Institutions and Regulations recited in No. 16; likewise, from the Parliamentary Grants of Forfeited Estates, Money, Bounties on Exportation &c. set forth in No. 17; and moreover, from the un stipulated Inequalities between Taxes in England and Scotland, stated in No. 18.

The Consequences of all these Matters and Things should, I say, be laid before the Landholders of England; and yet, I very much doubt whether any English Landholder ever did, or will see a complete Account of those Consequences to the present Time; for upon looking into the printed Journals of The Honourable House of Commons, I find by an account of Goods exported to the British American Colonies, that the Inspector-general of Exports and Imports, receives NO ACCOUNTS from Scotland — Journals, 1727 to 1732, Vol. 21. Page 723.

I do not indeed find that the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations have, upon any Occasion, acquainted either House of Parliament, that they receive no Accounts from Scotland, and therefore I hope that the said Commissioners are duly informed about all these Matters; though I cannot help thinking that their Information, in this Respect, would be much more certain and regular, if Two of them, duly qualified and properly instructed, were appointed to yearly inspect, and report to Parliament, the State of the Manufactures, Fisheries and Trade of Scotland, while other Commissioners did the like for England.

But however well or ill those Commissioners have been, are, or shall be informed of all such Matters, the State of them for Time past, is not discoverable by Three Thousand Books, Pamphlets, Parliamentary &c. Cases, and Manuscripts which I have consulted for that and other Purposes; though the following particulars relative thereto, will enable the Landholders of England to form a general Idea of the Rate at which the Manufactures, Fisheries and Trade of Scotland have been, or are likely to be, increased and extended, by the various Encouragements before mentioned.

WOOLLEN MANUFACTURE.

By the Fifteenth Article of the Treaty of Union, as ratified by the Parliaments of England and Scotland, it is stipulated "that Two Thousand pounds per Annum for the Space of Seven Years, shall be applied towards encouraging and promoting the Manufacture of coarse Wool within those Shires [in Scotland] which produce the Wool — and that afterwards the same shall be wholly applied towards the encouraging and promoting the Fisheries, and such other Manufactures and Improvements in Scotland, as may most conduce to the general Good of the united Kingdom."

From hence it plainly appears, that the Manufacturing of any other Wool in Scotland, than what is produced there, was not intended by the Union-Treaty; and to form any contrary Supposition, in relation to other Country Wool, would be to suppose that the People of England have given up their future Wealth, Naval Power and Greatness; because, the same were derived from, are still supported by, and cannot be maintained without the WOOLLEN MANUFACTURE.

I am therefore exceedingly surprized to find, that the Exportation of Wool and Woollen Yarn from Ireland to this Kingdom, is not confined to such Ports of England as are convenient for our Woollen Manufactures; but, by Statute the 26 of George 2. Chap. 11, is extended to all the Ports of Great Britain; because, I do not know of any other Means whereby the People of England can continue to pay for the vast Quantities of Scotch Linen they yearly consume, than by receiving the same in Exchange for their Woollen Manufactures, nor do I see how an Equality of Trade can be otherwise maintained.

For the natural Products of England and Scotland are so nearly alike in all respects, that neither Kingdom can properly be said to stand in need of any Trade with the other, excepting what arises from an Exchange of English Woollens for Scotch Linens as aforesaid; although lower Rates of Taxes and Rents in Scotland than in England, do make Scotch Cattle, Sheep, Coals, &c. so much cheaper than the like can be afforded for in England, as to force a Trade therein with this Nation, upon which a great Balance is yearly gained by Scotland.

Before the Union of the Two Kingdoms, England could indeed pay for large Quantities of Scotch Linen, by English Colony Commodities, but the Union hath dried up that great Resource, and now we have nothing left to help us in this Case, but our Woollen Manufacture; so that if by the Importation or Sending of either English or Irish Wool or Woollen Yarn into Scotland, the People thereof come to supply themselves with Woollen Manufactures, I cannot, and therefore desire some other Person will, inform this Nation, how the Scotch Linen consumed here is to be paid for.

LINEN MANUFACTURE.

In my Paper No. 17 I have shewn upon what Principle, and how far the Linen Manufactures of Scotland ought to be encouraged on the Part of England; and in this Paper I have again spoken of them in such a Way, as will, I think, render any farther Preface to the following Account, quite unnecessary.

An Account of the Quantities of Scotch Linen Cloth for Sale, stamped in Scotland; distinguishing the Quantity and Value thereof in each Year from 1728 to 1759.

Years	Quantities Yards	Values l.	s.	d.
1728	2,183,978	103,312	9	8
1729	3,225,155	114,383	19	8
1730	3,755,622	131,262	15	11
1731	3,891,573	145,656	14	3
1732	4,384,832	168,322	14	10
1733	4,720,105	182,766	2	1
1734	4,893,499	185,224	3	11
1735	4,880,633	177,466	3	9
1736	4,538,478	168,177	13	—
1737	4,721,420	183,620	13	9
1738	4,666,011	185,026	11	9
1739	4,801,537	196,068	16	11
1740	4,609,672	188,777	16	5
1741	4,858,190	187,658	15	3
1742	4,431,450	191,689	6	6
1743	5,061,311	215,927	6	7
1744	5,480,727	229,364	12	3
1745	5,536,925	224,252	8	—
1746	5,486,334	222,870	13	2
1747	6,661,788	262,866	10	2
1748	7,353,098	293,864	12	11
1749	7,360,286	322,045	8	9
1750	7,572,540	361,736	12	5
1751	7,886,374	367,167	11	6
1752	8,759,943	409,047	6	7
1753	9,422,593	445,321	18	1
1754	8,914,369	406,816	8	—
1755	8,122,472	345,349	14	6
1756	8,547,153	367,721	10	10
1757	9,764,408	401,511	9	9
1758	10,624,435	424,141	10	7
1759	10,830,707	451,390	17	3

N. B. according to an Article in the Daily Advertiser for Saturday 7 Jan. 1764, dated Edinburgh Dec. 31st. there were stamped for Sale in Scotland, within the last Year, 12 Millions 399 Thousand 656 Yards of Scotch Linen Cloth; and the Increase in Value, upon that Year's Account only, is there said to be Seventy Seven Thousand &c. Pounds: so that the said Manufacture may now be rated at Twelve Millions of Yards yearly, Value Six Hundred Thousand Pounds Sterling a Year.

NUMBER XX.

Linen Manufacture continued.

THE preceding Account of Scotch Linen Cloth manufactured for Sale, doth indeed exhibit a most striking Proof of what English Generosity hath done, by giving so many Encouragements to the Manufactures, Fisheries and Trade of Scotland; and yet, the Force and Influence of this Generosity, are so far from having wrought their utmost Effect, that in Twenty Years more, it is probable the Scotch Nation will have Twenty Million Yards of Linen Cloth yearly to spare for the Use of the generous People of England.

But amidst all this Flow of English Generosity into Scotland, it will be highly expedient for the Landholders of England to well consider how far all these Matters and Things may, or may not quadruple with the general Weal of those Three united Kingdoms which constitute the BRITISH EMPIRE; because it is owing to a truly wise Conciliation of their Interests by Law, that a Same-ness in the natural Productions of those Three Kingdoms doth not now, as formerly it did, produce Discord and Poverty, but on the contrary, by an Union of Interests, hath made invincible, Three Nations which Disunion might of itself destroy.

To remove even from Thought, all Tendency towards so dire and general a Calamity, hath long been a main Object of British Councils, and the Proceedings in this respect, are indeed so deeply rooted in Wisdom, that a firm adherence to first Principles is the easy Condition of Continuing such diffusive Blessings; but to imagine that so much Felicity and Strength can be continued to the Three united Kingdoms, any longer than an Equilibrium is preserved between their respective conciliated Interests, is but another Way of imagining that there may be an Effect without a Cause.

It will therefore be expedient to inquire, how far the increasing Linen Manufactures of Scotland are reconcilable with the Interest of the other Two united Kingdoms of England and Ireland, because Right and Wrong, in this Case, depend upon preserving, or not preserving, an Equality of Trade; and such Equality is so nearly preserved in the Trade between England and Ireland, that in Eight Years, from 1719 to 1726, there is not 500l. Difference between the whole Exports and Imports, according to Mr. Dobbs's Account,

Part 1, Page 53, though each amounted to near Half a Million a Year.

By thus trading upon equal Terms, and to so comparatively great an annual Amount, the Two Kingdoms of England and Ireland do mutually aid, assist and strengthen each other, as it is highly necessary that Nations united in Interest and Allegiance ever should do; and if any Person can make it appear to the People of England, that Scotland co-operates in the same Manner, to give Stability to the BRITISH EMPIRE, I shall, when that is done, think with Pleasure of the vast Increase there hath been, and still is likely to be, in the Linen Manufactures of Scotland.

But if by any great Disparity between the Weight of Taxes in Scotland and Ireland, the Linen Manufactures of the former continue rapidly increasing, while those of the latter move but slowly forward, the Strength of the British Empire will be impaired thereby, and both England and Ireland become great Sufferers; because the Ability of Ireland to trade with England, chiefly depends upon the English Demand for Irish Linen, Linen Yarn, Wool and Woollen Yarn, and the less we take of those Articles from them, the less will they be able to take of our Commodities and Manufactures.

The Landholders of England will likewise be pleased to consider, that several northern Nations and States which yearly consume vast Quantities of English Woollen Manufactures, are not able to pay for the same by any other Means than exchanging their Linen Cloth, Yarn &c. for our Woollens; and in this Trade, the People of Ireland are so far interested, that it secures to them an English Demand, for Irish Woollen and Worsted Yarn, and Wool, to the Amount of more than One Hundred Thousand Pounds per Annum, which could not otherwise be disposed of, without impairing the Strength, and affecting the Stability of the British Empire.

So that upon the Whole, the regulating of our Linen Trade, consistently with the general Weal of the Three united Kingdoms, and keeping the same so regulated, from Time to Time, as the Circumstances of Things alter, really do require much wary Circumspection and mature Consideration; but previous thereto, it will be necessary to ascertain, as nearly as may be, the usual yearly Consumption of other Country Linen in England; and upon comparing the Imports with the Re-exports thereof, for 31 Years ending in 1699, I reckon the then yearly Home Consumption at Twenty one Million of Yards.

Since that Time the English Consumption of other Country Linen is much increased, and it hath of late Years been said that Thirty two Millions of Yards are yearly imported, but the Writers who have said this, do not mention what Part of that Linen was re-exported; however, there are great Quantities of Scotch Linen yearly brought into England by Land, and consumed here, so that until better Information can be obtained of these Matters, the yearly English Consumption of all other Country Linens may be rated at Thirty Million of Yards.

The Business therefore is, to have the People of England yearly provided with Thirty Million Yards of other Country Linens, of such Sorts, and in such Proportions from each Country, as may at once suit their Wants, and the present Circumstances of our Trade with those other Countries; encouraging on the one Hand, the English Consumption of such Linens as come from Countries with which England trades upon gaining or only equal Terms, and on the other Hand, restraining the English Consumption of Linens brought from Countries with which we have a losing Trade.

For if England and Ireland are to bear the Burthens of the British Empire, without due Aid therein from Scotland, and the People of the latter are nevertheless to have equal Bounties, Premiums and Drawbacks with this Nation, I desire that any Man, who can, will tell how, and by what Means, England and Ireland will be able to continue paying their present Rents and Taxes.

NUMBER XXI.

NUMBER XL. LEAD MINES.

ALL I have been able to learn concerning the lead-mines of Scotland, is, that they afford plenty of lead, both for home consumption and exportation; so that it may well be reckoned a good article in the trade of that kingdom.

COAL MINES.

The exportation of coals from Scotland is a considerable article, that the parliament of England thought fit to prohibit their being brought into this kingdom, at the time it was doubtful, whether or not the desired union could be effected; as is already mentioned in my paper No. 24.

FISHERIES.

The coast, &c. fisheries of Scotland are well known to be both extensive and profitable; but I have not been able to meet with any complete account of the profit drawn from them by the people of that kingdom.

Their exportation of salmon stems, by Mr. Spruel's account current, &c. page 24, to have been an article of some consideration before the union; and a bounty of 4s. 6d. per barrel, may well be supposed to have made it more considerable since the union.

I do not find that the cod and ling fisheries yielded much profit to Scotland, before the union; nor can I tell how far the same have since been increased, by the bounties allowed on those sorts of fish.

But the herring fishery hath long been a great article in the trade of Scotland; though it received a severe check from the French, some time before our union with the Scotch nation; for in the year 1705, Mr. Spruel said, that while they had liberty to export herrings to France, there were above three thousand lasts [12 barrels to a last] of white herrings yearly exported from Clyde to the French ports, besides what were exported from Dunbar, Fife and the north coast from the Lewis [island]—page 25 of his account current, &c.

This French prohibition of Scotch herrings, hath indeed been mentioned to me as a consequence of the union; but I had reasons for being of another opinion; and upon looking into the commercial edicts and arrests of Lewis XIV. I find that by an arrest, bearing date the 6th of September 1701, a duty of eighty livres per last of 12 barrels, is laid upon Scotch herrings, which, by the French tariff established in 1664, were chargeable with only sixteen livres per last; so that the said high duty, amounting to a prohibition, neither was a consequence of the union, nor of Queen Anne's war against France, but was laid in time of full peace; and the same policy still subsists in relation to Dutch herrings in France, excepting when the French want to cajole the people of Holland, by a suspension of it; which, with good management, occasions more talking than eating of Dutch herrings.

However, the union treaty hath repaired that loss to Scotland, which French policy would otherwise have made irreparable; for it hath opened in the English colonies, a better market for Scotch herrings than France at any time seems to have afforded; and instead of paying a French duty of sixteen livres per last, they receive a British bounty of twice sixteen shillings per last; over and above various other encouragements already mentioned; so that when the public accounts of those bounties come to be called for, by proper authority, I am of opinion it will from thence appear, that the fish yearly exported from Scotland, do make an article of one hundred thousand pounds sterling per annum, in their exports.

FOREIGN TRADE.

Trade with Norway.

There are exported from Scotland to Norway, very near as much malted barley and other grain as the bulky merchandize brought from thence to Scotland amounts to in value—Interest of Scotland considered; printed at Edinburgh, anno 1733, and dedicated to the late Duke of Argyll, when Earl of Ilay, page 99.

Trade to the Baltic, Hamburg and Bremen.

In good fishing years, the fish, Scotch salt and coarse woollen manufactures exported from Scotland to these places, are equal in value to the merchandize brought from thence to Scotland—Same book and page.

Trade with Holland.

Exports: Lead, lead ore, some coarse woollens—Imports: Velvet, bone lace, cambric, and some East-India goods—Balance seems by the course of exchange to be against Scotland—Same book and page.

Trade with France.

Exports: Lead, salted salmon, and sometimes wheat—Imports: Wines, brandy—Balance against Scotland, is remitted by way of London—Same book, page 100.

Trade to Spain, Portugal and Straights.

Exports: Dried cod, coarse serges, and profit of freight in Scotch ships there employed on freight, are near equal in value to all the goods brought from thence to Scotland—Same book and page.

Trade to Africa.

In the year 1733 there were but few Scotch ships employed in this trade—Same book and page.

Trade with Ireland.

The author of the above quoted book says, that the dealings between Scotland and Ireland are scarce worth mentioning, page 101: from whence it may be presumed, that the same is a trifle, in comparison of the several branches of foreign trade already mentioned: it will therefore be necessary to say what that trifle was, about the time here spoken of, to the end that some guess may at least be made about these matters; and upon looking into Mr. Dobbs his essay on the trade of Ireland, part I. page 37, I find that the exports from Scotland and the Isle of Man to Ireland, amounted in value to thirty thousand, &c. pounds yearly, by

which small trade Ireland lost seventeen thousand pounds a year; and upon looking over the particular articles, I find reason for thinking that fourteen parts out of fifteen, of that trade belonged to Scotland.

Trade with British Colonies.

The author of the interest of Scotland considered says, "We [the Scotch] are gainers by our trade to the plantations; for all the goods we bring from thence for home consumption, are not equal in value to our own manufactured goods we send out," page 100.—But in this, and in every other branch of the foreign or maritime trade of Scotland, the author leaves his readers to find out by other means, the extent and gain or loss upon those trades.

And so scanty is all public information about these affairs in England, that I have been able to meet with only one account, which shews what share the people of Scotland have gained in our colony trade; and this is confined to our two colonies of Virginia and Maryland.

An account of the quantity of tobacco imported into Great Britain, and exported from it, in the four last years of peace, after the late tobacco-law took place, according to the Customhouse accounts.

	Imported.	Exported.
	Hhds.	Hhds.
ENGLAND.	1752—55,997—48,922	1753—70,925—57,353
	1754—59,744—50,476	1755—71,881—54,384
	258,547—211,135	
SCOTLAND.	1752—22,322—21,642	1753—26,216—24,728
	1754—22,334—21,764	1755—20,698—19,711
	91,564—87,845	
Total	350,111—298,980	
Average yearly	87,528—74,745	
Imported	—	hhd. 87,528
Exported	—	— 74,745
Home consumption	—	12,783

To 87,528 hhds. at 10l. per hhd. £ 875,280
To duty on 12,783 hhds. at 20l. 255,660

Annual income from tobacco — 1,130,940

From hence it appears, that Scotland hath gained one fourth part of the tobacco colony trade, though it pays only one hundredth part of the taxes of this kingdom; and that tobacco alone makes an article of two hundred thousand pounds sterling per annum in the exports of Scotland; to which I shall add only half that sum for the other northern colonies and sugar colonies; and then lay before the landholders of England such an imperfect abstract of the present yearly exports or sendings of merchandize from Scotland, as these defective materials will permit me to make.

Yearly Exports from Scotland.

	No. account
Woollen	—
Linen	600,000
Yarn, Tapes, Thread, &c. not reckoned	—
Cotton, silk, Leather, Paper, &c.	no account
Copper, Brails, Iron, Wood	no account
Lead	no account
Coals	no account
Cattle and sheep	40,000
Beef and pork	no account
Corn and grain	no account
Malt and beer	no account
Fish, guessed at	100,000
Tobacco re-exported	200,000
Other colony produce, guessed at	100,000

Total of the known or guessed at articles 1,040,000

So that if the true state of all these things was known, I believe it would appear, that the yearly exports of merchandize from Scotland amount to one million five hundred thousand pounds sterling per annum; which I take to be seven times as much as all the exports from Scotland amounted to in value, the year before the union.

And yet the taxes of Scotland are so far from having kept pace with its trade, that they seem to have rather decreased as that hath extended; for in page 65 of the minutes of proceedings in the union treaty, there is a state of the yearly revenue and public income of Scotland, as it then was, amounting to one hundred and sixty thousand pounds sterling a year; notwithstanding all which, and the addition of various new taxes to support Queen Anne's war, the neat produce of the revenues of Scotland from 1708 to 1714 amounted only to 120,000l. a year, as I have already shewn by an authentic account thereof, extracted from a report made to the honourable House of Commons, printed by their order in 1718, and inserted in my paper No. 4.

By what means that reduction of 40,000l. a year in the taxes of Scotland was brought about, I know not; but I believe that those taxes have of late years undergone such farther reductions by funds for, and bounties, premiums, &c. on Scotch product and manufactures, that the remainder doth not exceed the money expended in Scotland by the troops quartered there; and if this be not the case, I desire that some person or other will let the people of England know the true state of these matters.

[To be concluded in the next half sheet.]

